1   WE CLAIM:

2   1.   A method of using a source database for forming derived products,

3   wherein the source database contains data that represent geographic features in a region

4   including roads in the region, the method comprising:

5   providing a first set of data from the source database, wherein the first set of data

6   represents at least some of the geographic features in the region and further wherein the

7   first set of data includes attributes suitable for use for providing navigation-related

8   functions; and

9   using data from the source database to form a template database, wherein the

10   template database represents an imaginary locale.

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12   2.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the template database includes data that

13   provides a level of accuracy similar to a level of accuracy provided by the first set of data

14   used for navigation-related functions

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16   3.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the template database includes data that

17   provides a level of detail similar to a level of detail provided by the first set of data used

18   for navigation-related functions

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20   4.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of using data from the source

21   database to form a template database further comprises the steps of:

22   selecting a real world locale;

23   obtaining data that represents the real world locale, wherein the data that

24   represents the real world locale is obtained from or derived from the source database;

25   using the data that represents the real world locale to determine at least one

26   parameter of geographic features represented thereby; and

27   forming the template database using the parameter.

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29   5.   The method of Claim 4 wherein the parameter includes an overall size of

30   the locale.

6.   The method of Claim 4 wherein the parameter includes road densities.

7.   The method of Claim 4 wherein the parameter includes road shapes.

8.   The method of Claim 4 wherein the parameter includes road widths.

9.   The method of Claim 4 wherein the parameter includes expressway density.

10.   The method of Claim 4 wherein the parameter includes roadway orientation.

11.   The method of Claim 4 wherein the parameter includes road alignment.

12.   The method of Claim 4 wherein the parameter includes altitude changes.

13.   The method of Claim 4 wherein the parameter includes geographic features selected from a group consisting of: lakes, rivers, and mountains.

14.   The method of Claim 4 wherein the parameter includes open spaces in a locale selected from a group consisting of: parks and golf courses.

15.   The method of Claim 4 wherein the parameter includes points of interest.

16.   The method of Claim 4 wherein the parameter includes buildings located in a locale.

17.   The method of Claim 4 wherein the parameter includes signs.

1   18.   The method of Claim 1 wherein data in the template database is combined

2   with road model data to provide a realistic visual appearance of roads in the imaginary

3   locale.

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5   19.   The method of Claim 1 wherein data in the template database is combined

6   with road model data to provide a realistic visual appearance of roads in the region,

7   wherein the road model data includes as road pavement colors, lane stripe markings,

8   curbs, sidewalks, signs, lampposts, lane dividers, traffic signals, speed bumps, and

9   crosswalks.

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11   20.   The method of Claim 1 wherein data in the template database is combined

12   with 3D model data to provide a realistic visual representation of polygon shaped features

13   in the region.

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15   21.   The method of Claim 1 wherein data in the template database is combined

16   with 3D model data to provide a realistic visual representation of cityscape and landscape

17   features in the region.

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19   22.   The method of Claim 1 wherein data in the template database is combined

20   with 3D model data to provide a realistic visual representation of one of a group

21   consisting of: buildings, fences, trees, shrubbery, lawns, fences, and clouds in the region.

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23   23.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the data in the template database is

24   combined with other game-related components to form the computer games.

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26   24.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the data in the template database is

27   combined with other game-related components to form the computer games, wherein the

28   other game-related components include at least one of a group consisting of: characters,

29   game logic, vehicles, game rules and programs for rendering and graphics.

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25. A method of developing a computer game comprising:

acquiring a template database from another party, wherein the template database contains data that represents a geographic locale;

incorporating data from the template geographic database, along with other computer game components, to form a computer game product; and

selling the computer game product.

26. The method of Claim 25 wherein the geographic locale is an imaginary locale.

27. The method of Claim 25 wherein the geographic locale is an actual locale.

28. A method of developing a computer game comprising:

providing template geographic databases to end users, wherein the template databases contain data that represents geographic locales; and

providing programming tools to the end user that allow the end users to incorporate data from the template geographic database into computer games, wherein the computer games include playing scenarios that include representations of the geographic locales.